



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

Date: September 17, 2014

To: Michigan Medical, Nursing, and Dental Schools

While vaccination is one of the best ways to prevent serious disease and illness, many students in a prospective health care profession are undergoing unnecessary medical procedures to demonstrate protection against or exposure to certain diseases. **Health care training institutions should ensure their policies and practices are up-to-date and align with current immunization and serologic testing recommendations.**

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) follows recommendations made by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). [Recommendations of the ACIP for the Immunization of Health Care Personnel \(HCP\)](#) were updated in November, 2011; this report includes input from the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee. These updated recommendations can assist hospital administrators, infection-control practitioners, employee health clinicians, and HCP in optimizing infection prevention and control programs.

Health care students should have adequate protection against these diseases, which are outlined in the updated ACIP recommendations:

- Hepatitis B (Hep B)
- Influenza
- Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)
- Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)
- Varicella (Var)

Recommendations for serologic testing to demonstrate evidence of immunity against these diseases are outlined in the updated ACIP recommendations. In summary, HCP should be vaccinated with 3 doses of Hep B and tested for hepatitis B surface antibody (anti-HBs) to document immunity 1–2 months after the third dose. For persons with a complete documented Hep B series but without serological testing (anti-HBs), there are two options for determining Hep B immunity status: pre-exposure or post-exposure evaluation. Refer to the: “CDC Guidance for Evaluating Health-Care Personnel for Hepatitis B Virus Protection and for Administering Postexposure Management,” MMWR, Vol. 62/ No. 10, December 20, 2013.

HCP with 2 documented valid doses of MMR **are not recommended to be serologically tested** for immunity; but if they are tested and results are negative or equivocal for measles, mumps, and/or rubella, these HCP should be considered to have presumptive evidence of immunity to measles, mumps, and/or rubella and are not in need of additional MMR doses.

Evidence of varicella immunity for HCP includes any of the following: written documentation of vaccination with 2 doses of VAR, laboratory evidence of immunity or laboratory confirmation of disease, diagnosis or verification of a history of varicella disease by a health care provider, or diagnosis or verification of a history of herpes zoster virus by a health care provider. Institutions may elect to test all unvaccinated HCP, regardless of disease history, because a small proportion of persons with a positive history of disease might be susceptible. For the purpose of screening HCP, a less sensitive and more specific commercial ELISA should be considered. Routine testing for varicella immunity after 2 doses of vaccine is not recommended.

In addition to the vaccines needed to protect HCP, all adults should be vaccinated according to the [ACIP recommended schedule for adults](#) 19 years of age and older. Other vaccines to consider include:

- Pneumococcal
- Human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Zoster
- Hepatitis A

If you have any questions regarding the ACIP recommendations for immunization of HCP and adults, please contact your [local health department](#) (www.malph.org). The Immunization Action Coalition has a [summary of recommendations for health care personnel](#) available at www.immunize.org (see item # P2017).

Encourage your students to make sure their immunizations are documented in the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (www.mcir.org) and incorporate immunization best practices, such as the use of registries, into your training programs. Immunization educational programs for physicians, nurses, and office staff are available free-of-charge at a time and location convenient to you. Continuing education credits and CMEs are available and topics include immunizations for HCP; pediatric, adolescent, and adult immunizations; vaccines for women's health; influenza vaccine; and storage and handling. For more information, contact Carlene Lockwood at LockwoodC@michigan.gov.

Thank you for all that you are doing to educate and train the next generation of health professionals. If you have further questions about any of the information contained in this letter, contact Barbara Wolicki, Immunization Nurse Consultant, at WolickiB@michigan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Swanson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bob Swanson, MPH
Director, Division of Immunization